BALTIMORE COUNTY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION reviewed approved MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST Landmarks preservation commission reviewed approved MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-177

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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HISTORIC TRENT	CON WILL	•	
AND/OR COMMON			, •
1/	KS MILL		
LOCATION			
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Maryland			Baltimore County
CLASSIFICA	TION		
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
	PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTUREMUSEUM
	XPRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED .	COMMERCIALPARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONALPRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENTRELIGIOUS
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	X YES RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENTSCIENTIFIC
	_BEING CONSIDERED	_YES: UNRESTRICTED	industrialtransportation military X_other Not use
OWNER OF	PROPERTY		Res: 804-973-69
NAME	ichor Tr		Telephone #: Bus: 804-977-37
A. Murray F	Isher, or.		1
Route 5. Bo	× 205		·
Route 5, Bo	x 205		STATE, Zip code
Route 5, Bo		VICINITY OF	STATE, Zip code Virginia 22901
CHY. TOWN Charlottesv	ille		Virginia 22901
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DESCRIPTION

__EXCELLENT

X.GOOD

__FAIR

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

XUNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X_ORIGINAL SITE

_MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Trenton Mill is a sturdy stone building of three stories plus attic; three bays wide and three bays deep. The main facade is provided with loading doors at four levels from ground to attic, and a projecting section of roof, called a hood, provides shelter for the hoisting equipment. The mill is lighted by ordinary sash windows with brick lintels over each frame. There is a gable roof, covered with ribbed aluminum, renewed in 1975. A cornice runs along the side walls and is decorated with dentils or scroll-sawn brackets. At the rear of the building, part of the wall is of timber, allowing the waterwheel to pass into the gear pit in the basement.

The floor plan is purely four-sided, with no projections or wings. Dimensions in the 1918 tax ledger were 40 X 40 feet.

The interior of the mill exhibits all the building techniques used by millwrights over two centuries or so. There are internal supporting posts with chamfered corners and the beams overhead (called girts) are supported on large shaped blocks (bolsters) mounted on top of the posts. Pegs in sets of four are used to pin the bolsters to the girts. In places, girts are mortised in a Z-pattern into the adjoining girt.

Many iron shafts and iron bevel gears for linking the machinery to the output of the waterwheel are intact. The plant is equipped with both millstones (48 inches in diameter) and self-contained roller mill units which make a whiter grade of flour with corrugated, chilled-steel rollers. This mix of equipment represents a high point in the technology of milling in the rural parts of the Eastern United States. The millstones represent a system used in America since about 1607; the roller units were put in by Eastern millers to make a flour competitive with the spring wheat, bleached flour made in Minneapolis; a trend, perhaps even a craze, for roller mills began in Maryland about 1882-83-84.

The machinery includes:

- · Mawhood Roller Mill, built by Richmond City Mill Company
- Wolf Company Roller Mill
- Eureka New Improved Dustless Receiving Separator, made by
 S. Howes Company, Silver Creek, New York
- Three silk-screen bolting reel chests marked "Silver Creek, N.Y."
- · Eureka Smut Machine, patent date marked 1872.

In April 1975, Mr. J. B. Campbell, an 85-year-old consulting mill-wright from Philadelphia (graduate of Cornell), inspected the mill. Mr. Campbell stated that it was a beautiful mill but had been driven hard. He said, "All this is modern," of the mid- and late-19th Century pulley and gearing system. He thought the builders had put in too many grinding stones for the water power available—that was confirmed by a neigh-

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

bor, George Shaffer, who recalled that as a boy he would be swimming in the pond, only to have it drained out by Mr. Jordan's running of the mill downstream. Mr. Campbell stated that the techniques of mill framing were "the same from Maine to Georgia." He also noted that the open stairs (without rails or risers) were replacements because, unlike the carefully crafted stairs of some mills such as Roser's at Parkton, the treads would not slip in and pull out. But, all in all, Mr. Camball thought it was a well-made mill and said in effect that it was built alke a brick ancillary plantation structure.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	Al	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
_1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	,SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING .	MUSIC	THEATER
X_1800-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1861-62	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Wesley A	rmacost

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present Trenton Mill is at least the second mill on this site. No mill is found on the 1798 tax list nor in ads when this ground was sold at an auction of 1824. The tract names here were Sportsmans Hall and Stophel's Delight. Lottie Fishpaw, a resident of the village or town of Trenton, cites a local tradition that the first mill was built by George Zouck in 1839; Wesley Michael Murray Armacost was said to have been the millwright. The mill appears as John C. Zouck's on both the 1850 Sidney map and the 1857 Taylor map. At that time, the mill was at the end of a road coming in from the north. A large stone dwelling for the miller was also built in 1839 and still stands. (1442)(1)

The village was for a time known as Zoucksville, and a post office of that name was established 1854. "Zouck" rhymes with the family name "Houck," rather than with "kook." The military map made of the county in 1863 showed John C. Zoucks (sic). The Zouck family built Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Zouck ran an advertisement in the Baltimore County Advocate of June 11, 1864 and revealed that the first mill had been replaced two years before; he announced that he was "intending to decline farming and retire from the milling operation" and offered to sell "one of the best Grist Mills in the county, built 1861 and '62 of the best materials and by the most proficient machinists with 4 pair of burrs ... 22 x 64 dwelling ... and Lot No. 2 ... The Saw Mill Property ... also on Piney Run ... excellent saw mill capable of sawing boards, shingles, banisters, wagon felloes and plastering laths."

Lottie Fishpaw writes that the millwright of the second mill was Wesley Armacost, master mason. There was a story that each corner of the mill was built by a man named Armacost, working in competition, but "It would be hard to say which was the best mason because each corner still stands firmly. It was built of local stone with lime in a binder. (There was a lime kiln about a mile away on Trenton Road)."

John C. Zouck sold the mill on June 27, 1864, to Mordecai Parrish, with parts of Sportsmans Hall Resurveyed, Hookers Meadows Resurveyed, and Morrows Venture "as now distinguished by the name of Zoucksville Mill Property (or Lot No. 1)." Parrish soon died and the mill was offered at auction, February 16, 1865. The ad in B.C. American, December 30,

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1864, declared, "Upon this property is a good water power and the Flour Grist and Saw Mill located thereon is acknowledged to be the best in the county. The mill is built of stone, nearly new and the machinery will compare with any in the State, the mill is five stories high, is now under rent, and is doing a good business. There is also upon the property a fine large stone Dwelling, seventy feet front. John R.D. Bedford/Thomas C. Bosley, Executors."

The county paper of 1866 reported:

The mill dam upon the property of John M. Wheeler, Esq., situated in the 5th District (recently purchased from the estate of Mordeca Parrish, deceased), was washed away. (2)

Parrish's executors, Richard J. Gittings and Lewis H. Wheeler, conveyed title to John M. Wheeler on February 24, 1869, for \$2000. (3)

The 1877 atlas showed J. M. Wheeler's mill at Trenton Post Office; the road then passed to the north of the building, rather than to the south as at present. That year, Wheeler lost the mill by default of a mortgage he had made in 1871. The mill was first sold to Stephen Barton, but he sued and had the sale annulled when it turned out that the sawmill a few hundred yards away did not come with the property. At the second sale, William Heaffner or Heaffer purchased the mill. (4)

In 1873, when Wheeler had tried to sell the mill himself, he added to his advertisement:

The Worthington Valley Railroad, which will in all probability be completed in the Spring, will pass through the property, (5).

The mill was apparently leased to tenant operators, and the State business directories of 1880 and 1887 showed C. G. Brown as miller at Trenton.

The 1880 manufacturers' census listed Claudius G. Brown's mill with \$1200 capital investment, and with 1 employee, 1 run of stones, and 26 bu/diem maximum. A 25-foot fall on Piney Run drove two overshot wheels 4 ft. broad at 10 rpm to develop 10 hp. Annual output was 200 bbl. flour, 10 bbl. rye, 5 tons meal, and 120 tons feed (\$3800).

The Towson papers reported a cloudburst at Trenton in 1889 and noted that:

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Mr. C.G. Brown, the miller, lost considerable fencing, several cords of stove wood, &c. and had a pen full of fine hogs near the stream which he was compelled to drive out in short order ... afraid dam would give way ... dam 25 feet high and 300 feet wide ... (6)

In January 1910, Heaffer's executors conveyed to L. C. Caltrider, and that in April, Dr. James H. Preston took title; and in 1914, it passed to Lewis Sager; to Otis F. Boyd in 1919; and to George M. Jordan in July 1920.

Jordan operated the mill until 1946 and when he sold out it was the end of milling in the area. When interviewed in the <u>Sun</u> some nine years later, Jordan recalled that he had once shipped 40 tons of mill product per month. Trenton had been a thriving community where John T. Martin had kept a general store and operated the post office. The pond used to freeze hard enough for skating, but on one occasion two children had fallen through the ice and drowned. Jordan had replaced the wooden trough that led water to the mill and replaced it with an iron pipe. He had also installed a steel waterwheel 18 feet 4 inches in diameter. (7)

The mill passed through a number of hands and in a 1949 lawsuit, a witness testified that it was a:

large four story stone mill building with tin roof which structurally is in good shape but for any use rather limited ... there is a mill dam which is pretty well gone from any use as a mill dam

(8)

In 1950, the mill property was purchased by Miss Zotie A. Boczkowski-Bea, an European lady who actually only wanted the 60-foot wide stone dwelling across the road. She scrapped the steel waterwheel, but never sold the rest of the iron gearing. Down into the early Seventies, Trentor Mill stood forlorn, losing window panes, the sashes decaying, water rotting parts of the attic floor.

On February 5, 1975, Alexander Murray Fisher, Jr. of Black Rock Road purchased the mill lot of 1.7 acres from Miss Bea, with the hope of getting it back in operating condition. By 1978, he had put on a new ribbed metal roof, replaced windows, and jacked up and repaired floor sections. He had also acquired a second-hand but relatively young waterwheel, made by the now-extinct Fitz Waterwheel Company in 1948. Mr. Fisher had also begun to cut out scroll-sawn Victorian brackets for the cornice. By the autumn of 1978, the mill was stabilized and restored, the floors safe enough to admit tour visitors. Actual operation of the mill is complicated by two factors—getting a water supply to the wheel and Mr. Fisher's acceptance of a post as school director out of town.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 3

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

DATE ENTERED

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Notes:

- 1. Lottie Fishpaw, "A Visit to Trenton," ms., 1973.
- 2. Maryland Journal, Towson, June 9, 1866, p. 2.
- 3. B.C. Deeds, EHA 61:222.
- 4. Judicial Records, JB 51:32.
- 5. Maryland Journal, Towson, March 8, 1973, p. 1.
- 6. B.C. Democrat, Towson, July 6, 1889, p. 3.
- 7. Robert G. Breen, "Down Hill to Contentment," Sun, June 8, 1955.
- 8. Judicial Records, TBS 542:63.

MAIO	R BIBLIOGR	APHICAL	REFEREN	CES
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Robert G. Breen, "Down Hill to Contentment," Sun, June 8, 1955.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHRET IF NECESSARY

EGEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Shown as Parcel 249 on Tax Map 25.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE None

COUNTY

STATE

None

COUNTY

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME - TITLE

John W. McGrain	
ORGANIZATION Baltimore County	DATE
Office of Planning and Zoning	September 1978
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
401 Bosley Avenue	494-3495
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Towson	Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

N. R. FIELD SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Maryland	
Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE O	NLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

	Trenton Mill									
	ANO/OR HISTORIC:				•		-			
	Zoucks Mill									
2.	LOCATION									
	STREET AND NUMBER:									
	NE corner of Tr	enton Ro	ad a	and I	rentor	a Mill	Road	i, Dist. 5		- · · · · ·
	Zoucksville (na	me now c	osde	Lete)	 					
	STATE				CODE	COUNT				CODE
Program.	Md.				<u> </u>	Bal	timor	re Co.		
3.	CLASSIFICATION	T				-		T	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
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	District Building	Public	· 🗆	Public	Acquisit	tion:		Occupied	Yes:	
	Site Structure	Private	X	In	Process			Unoccupied 🛣	Restrict	ed [
	Object 🗍	Both		В	eing Cons	idered		Preservation work	Unrestri	cted [
								in progress	No:	X
	PRESENT USE (Check One or M	lore as Appro	priate)						<u>.l</u>	
	Agriculturo Governm	nent 🗍	Par	rk			Tra	nsportation	Comments	
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4.		rski.								
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SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If A	pplicable	and Known)	1861				
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANC	E (Check	One or More as		e)			
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	Cockeysville					Md. 21030						CODE	
2. STATI			ER CE	RTIFICA	TION		NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATIO						ION
	LIMIOU	Y OF LEE					#						
As the	e designa	ted State	Liaise	on Officer	for the	e Na-							• • • •
tional	As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na- tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law					I hereby certify that this property is included in the							
1	89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion				Nationa	1 Registe	er.						
in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set													
	forth by the National Park Service. The recommended					Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation							
level	level of significance of this nomination is:					Criet, Office of Archeology and Atstoric Fleservation							
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY 1. STATE Haryland BA-178 / 77 COUNTY Baltimore INVENTORY VICINITY Dist. VI Trenton Mill 2. NAME STREET NO. On Piney Run, corner of Trenton Mill Rd. & Trenton Rd. 1860 DATE OR PERIOD ORIGINAL OWNER STYLE ORIGINAL USE ARCHITECT PRESENT OWNER BUILDER PRESENT USE 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE WALL CONSTRUCTION

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

NO. OF STORIES

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Built of granite stone from nearby ridge along Piney Run by John C. Zouck. Mill active until 1955, when operated by George M. Jordon.

(second HABS report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
March 20, 1968

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE	Endangered	Interior	Exterior	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional))		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Po	iges)	9. NAME, ADDRE	SS AND TITLE OF RECORDER	
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC				
		}		
		DATE OF REC	ORD	

1. STATE Maryland	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY /77
COUNTY Baltimore Co.	INVENTORY BA-18
STREET NO. On Piney Run, at Trenton Mill Rd. & Trenton Rd.	2. NAME Trenton Mill
ORIGINAL USE Mill PRESENT OWNER	STYLE 1860 ARCHITECT
PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION Granite stone	BUILDER John C. Zouck 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

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Exterior



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

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3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

Baltimore Co. Hist. Soc. Agriculture Bldg. Texas, Md.

DATE OF RECORD March 20, 1968